(b) to (e) Central Government issues only good quality foodgrains of 'A' & 'B' category free from insect infestation and conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration (P.F.A.) standards, to State Governments or their nominess for the Public Distribution System (PDS). The lifting and offtake of foodgrains during the last 3 years were as under:—

(in million M. Ts.)

	Allocation	Offtake
1992-93	20.28	16.39
1993-94	21.59	14.47
1994-95	23.69	12.54

In a vast operation such as the PDS, involving millions of tonnes of foodgrains and more than four lakh Fair Price Shops, some shortcomings, here and there, cannot be ruled out. Central Government has instructed the Food Corporation of India to permit State Governments and their nominees to inspect every lot before accepting the stocks. State Governments have the right to reject the stocks not comforming to the prescribed quality standards. Central Government has also advised State Government/UT Administrations to take stringent action against persons indulging in malpractices in the PDS.

However, the reduction in offtake of foodgrains from the PDS during the past two years is mainly attributable to easy availability of rice and wheat in the open market at prices not very different from the end retail prices through PDS, in most parts of the country.

Identification of Export Growth Centres

20. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified export growth centres for facilitating exports;

(b) if so, locations and details of their working and sectors for export;

(c) whether Government are also considering giving them financial aid to cater to needs of small scale exporters; if so, whether any consultative mechanism for interface between banks and SSIs is being envisaged; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Commerce have identified 23 centres in different States/Union Territories which could be recommended under a proposed Export Intensive Area Scheme.

(b) Details are given in the statement (*see below*).

(c) and (d) There is no proposal for direct financial aid to cater to the needs of small scale exports under the proposed scheme.

Statement

EXPORT INTENSIVE AREA SUB-PLAN SCHEME

CENTRES IDENTIFIED UNDER THIS SCHEME

1.	Tiruppur	Tamilnadu	Knitwear & hosiery
2.	Moradabad	Uttar Pradesh	Brassware Handicrafts
3.	Ludhiana	Punjab	Heavy machinery, Hosiery
4.	Surat	Gujarat	Diamonds Jewellery
5.	Panipat	Haryana	Handlooms
6.	Alleppey	Kerala	Coir
7.	Jallandhar	Punjab	Sport Goods
8.	Ranipet/Ambur	Tamilnadu	Leather
9.	Nagpur	Maharashtra	Handtools
10.	Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	Marine products
11.	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	Sports Goods

12.	Aligarh	Uttar Pradesh	Brass Locks
13.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	Leather footwear
14.	Khurja	Uttar Pradesh	Pottery
15.	Kanchipuram	Tamilnadu	Silk
16.	Sivakasi	Tamilnadu	Safety match
17.	Salem	Tamilnadu	Handtool
18.	Ambala	Haryana	Scientific instruments
19.	Jamnagar	Gujarat	Brass Parts
20.	Rajkot	Gujarat	Engine Pump
21.	Vapi-Ankleshwar	Gujarat	Chemicals
22.	Batala	Punjab	Machine Tools
23.	Bhagalpur	Bihar	Weaving

Problem of Unemployment and Backwardness

21. SHRI JANARDHAN YADAV: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concrete scheme has been formulated by Government to solve the problems of backwardness and unemployment in the rural areas of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and other backward States;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) States are not categorised either as backward or non-backward. However it is recognised that areas/districts within states may be backward defined in terms of alternative criteria.

While no concrete scheme as such has been formulated by the government for tackling the problem of backwarness and unemployment, the government is committed to the eradication of poverty and achievement of full employment within a reasonable time frame. As stated in the Eighth Plan, in order to achieve a situation of near full employment, additonal employment must be generated in the process of growth itself. However, in the short-run to the extent that the growth process 'bypasses' certain sections of society, it is necessary to provide supplementary employment and income to the poor through state intervention. Three major centrally sponsored poverty alleviation schemes are being implemented in rural areas of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and several other states/UTs. these are (i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP); (ii) Jawahar Razgar Yojana (JRY); (iii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS).

The IRDP seeks to provide assistance to poor households in order to enable them to acquire assets for self employment. It is based on part subsidy and part credit from the banks. The target group consists largely of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans living below the poverty line. TRYSEM is a sub-scheme under IRDP which aims at providing technical skills to rural youth in the age group 18 to 35 in order to equip them to take up income generating activities. DWCRA is another sub component of IRDP which is focussed on women living below the poverty line. Through a strategy of group formation it aims to improve women's access to basic services as well as enable them to take up economic activities.

The JRY is a wage employment programme where the main objective is the generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and underemployed rural people, on public works which would lead to creation of rural infrastructure and assets for more sustained employment.